## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A communication terminal connected to a public line network, for communicating with a center apparatus connected to the public line network to send and receive short message data to/from another communication terminal via the center apparatus, comprising:

input means for inputting short message data,

communicating means that is connected to the public line network, for communicating with the center apparatus,

storing means for storing a plurality of center apparatuses and types of communication protocol information for each of the plurality of center apparatus to be used for communications of the communicating means,

selecting means for selecting a center apparatus to be communicated with among the center apparatuses whose communication protocol information is stored, based on a predetermined condition, and

controlling means for controlling the communicating means so as to send short message data to the center apparatus when sending the inputted short message data, and to receive short message data from the center apparatus when receiving the short message data, based on the communication protocol information of the center apparatus selected by the selecting means.

2. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 1, wherein the storing means includes an individual storing region assigned to each of the plurality of center apparatuses and a common storing region assigned commonly to the plurality of center apparatuses,

in which individual storing region, at least

identification information to identify the center apparatus,

communication protocol information to be used for communications with the center apparatus, and

short message data received from the center apparatus are stored, and

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the controlling means refers to the individual storing region assigned to the center apparatus selected by the selecting means, and controls the communicating means based on the identification information and the communication protocol information that are stored.


3. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 1, further comprising:

instructing means for instructing a center apparatus to be communicated with,

wherein the selecting means selects the center apparatus based on instruction of the instructing means.


4. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 2, wherein the communicating means detects identification information contained in a received incoming calling,

the selecting means compares the identification information detected by the communicating means with the identification information of the center apparatus stored in each individual storing region so as to select a center apparatus corresponding to the matched identification information, and

the controlling means refers to the individual storing region assigned to the selected center apparatus and controls the communicating means so as to receive short message data based on the stored communication protocol information.


5. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 2, wherein a priority receiving flag indicating whether or not the center apparatus is a center apparatus whose short message data should be received by priority is stored in each individual storing region,

the controlling means determines whether or not a vacant capacity of the individual storing region assigned to the center apparatus from which short message data is sent is smaller than a predetermined capacity when receiving the short message data; when the vacant capacity is the predetermined capacity or more, the short message data is stored in the individual storing region; and when the vacant capacity is smaller than the predetermined capacity, the priority receiving flag is referred to; and if the center apparatus from which the short message data is sent

is a center apparatus whose short message data should be received by priority, the received short

message data is stored in the common storing region.

6. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 2, further comprising:

designating means (for designating specific short message data among the received short

message data that is stored in the storing means,

wherein the selecting means (19) selects a center apparatus from which the short message

data designated by the designating means are sent, and

the controlling means refers to the individual storing region assigned to the selected

center apparatus, and controls the communicating means so as to send the short message data

inputted with the input means based on the stored communication protocol information.

7. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 1, wherein when an incoming calling

signal is received from a center apparatus by the communicating means in the course of

performing a process other than the process of sending and receiving short message data,

the controlling means interrupts the ongoing process, and controls the communicating

means so as to receive short message data, and the controlling means (19) resumes the

interrupted process when the short message data is completed to be received.

8. (Original) The communication terminal of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of displaying means for displaying received short message data, and printing

means for printing received short message data.

9. (New) The communication terminal of claim 1, wherein the communication terminal

transmits the short message data over a Public Switchboard Telephone Network.

10. (New) The communication terminal of claim 1, wherein the communication terminal

transmits the short message data over a switched circuit network.

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11. (New) The communication terminal of claim 1, wherein the short message data is created at the communication terminal.

12. (New) The communication terminal of claim 1, wherein communication terminal is a point of origin of the short message data.

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